

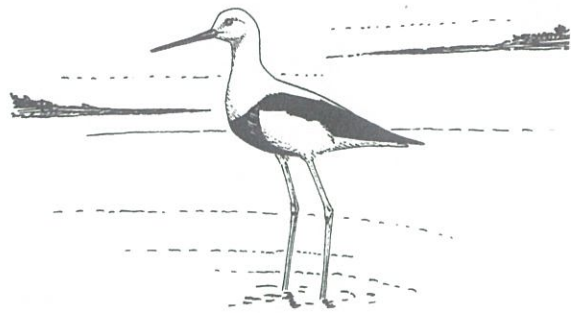
It was not until 1930 that a breeding colony of the endemic Banded Stilt was recorded, 114 years after the species was described. Some earlier breeding reports became known subsequently⁹⁵⁷ but by 1981 there were still only 19 reports of actual or probable breeding in the Atlases. Dates and places were: L. Cowan (31/121) 1904; Nannine (26/118) 1923; L. Grace (33/118) 1930, 1945, 1946; L. King (33/119) 1930; Menzies (29/121) 1930; L. Callabonna (29/140) 1930, 1936; Wagga Wagga L. (28/116) 1960; L. Disappointment (23/122) 1971; L. Ballard (29/120-121) 1973, 1975, 1980; L. Marmion (29/121) 1975; Percival L. (21/124) 1975; L. Barlee (29/119) 1980; L. Goongarrie (30/121) 1980; and Esperance (33/121) 1980.^{1007,1638}

The Stilt's breeding distribution is so small in comparison with its range that the species can clearly move far. It tends to be more abundant on the edges of its range in summer than in winter, presumably because inland waters dry up. Thus at Laverton (37/144) many Banded Stilts appear in summer but a few may be recorded in any month.¹⁸³⁸ At Moolap Saltworks (38/144) there are usually about 2000 present in summer and up to about 300 in winter. At Rottnest I. (32/115) it usually arrives in Sept.¹⁷⁰⁶ The Stilt is seldom recorded in the Tas. Region but in summer 1980-81 an influx brought birds, most apparently immatures, to several places on both eastern and western coasts and King I. (39/144). They included groups of seven and eight near Sandy Cape (41/144) in Jan. 1981.⁷⁸¹

The Banded Stilt occupies salt lakes, saltmarsh, saltfields, some coastal mudflats and occasionally shallow freshwater lakes. The large salt lakes on which breeding colonies usually form are filled only after very heavy rains

Banded Stilt

Cladorhynchus leucocephalus



such as drenched the Goldfields Region in 1980. When full, salt lakes are densely populated by brine shrimps and the bird feeds mostly on them. Nesting may continue for several months. It is sometimes curtailed by flooding but more often the lake dries out and thousands of chicks have been recorded to walk away from the colony, many dying. Mammalian and avian predators take heavy toll of eggs and young.²⁸² A colony at L. Barlee in 1980 contained an estimated 179 000 nests.²⁸² The National Wader Count recorded 70 000 Banded Stilts on The Coorong (36/139) in Feb. 1982.⁸⁴

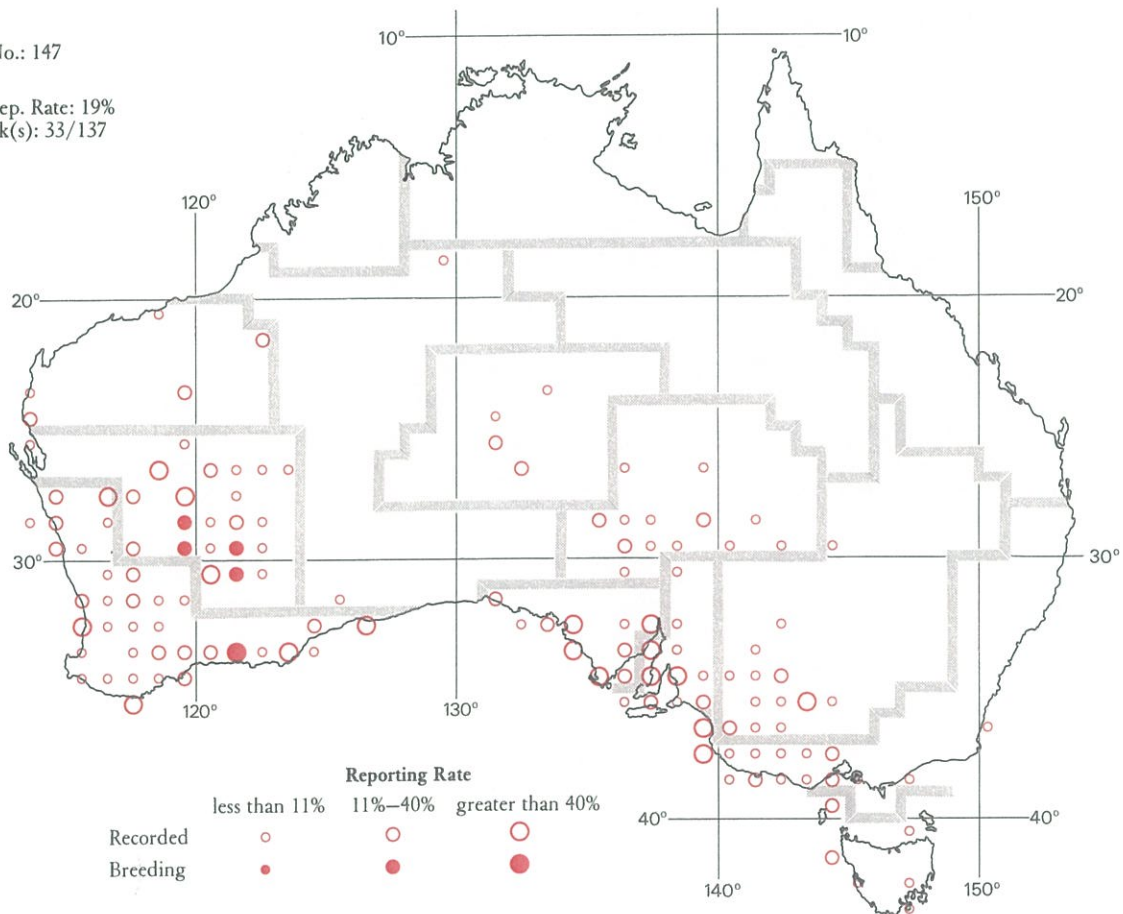
Field Atlas Records: 1034

1° blocks-with records: 136 (17%)

-with breeding records: 5 (4%)

Atlas No.: 147

Max. Rep. Rate: 19%
In block(s): 33/137



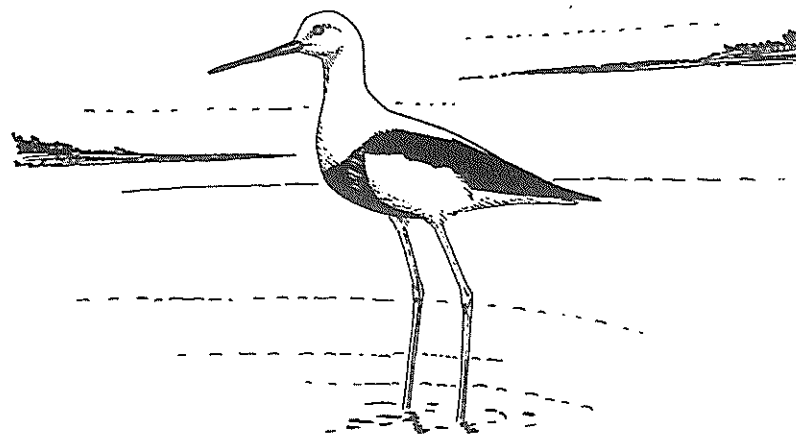
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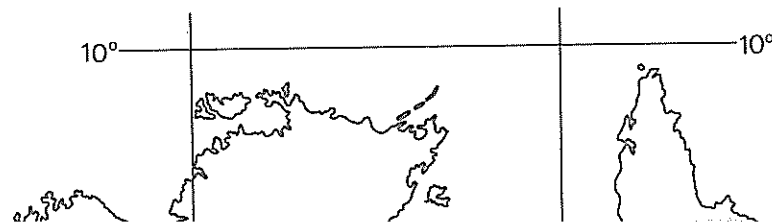
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THE ATLAS OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS

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